



# SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

## & SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

### SUMMER 2006 GUIDE

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## What's new in the parks?



**SHIFTS AT THE SHERMAN TREE** ~ New parking lots and trails now lead to the General Sherman Tree. You'll find the main route to the tree off the Wolverton Road between the Sherman Tree and Lodgepole. From there you walk down to the tree. The handicapped-accessible parking and trail are along the Generals Highway; from there you walk up to the tree on a gentler slope, but you need a permit to park there. See *Highlights* on page 6 for details on the best way to get to this giant tree. Soon new trailside exhibits will complete the scene.

#### KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER ~

This fantastic national park finally has a visitor center of its own. For 40 years, the Grant Grove Visitor Center exhibits focused mostly on the sequoias. Large though they be, sequoias live in a very small part of Kings Canyon National Park! New exhibits showcase not only the big trees, but the expansive High Sierra and the huge canyon that gave the park its name. Funded by entrance fees, donations, and grants, the exhibits even include interactive computer programs about local air quality. Stop in to explore, and see how the choice to preserve these three great natural landscapes – and the experiences they offer – has held them in trust for us all, now and in the future.

**BIG TREE CLOSES BIG STUMP** ~ A very large, very hollow sequoia leaned over the old Big Stump park entrance station on



*Don't miss the new exhibits, murals, sculpture, and film at the Kings Canyon Visitor Center in Grant Grove!*

Highway 180. The threat of it falling on the station – and on visitors waiting to enter the park – meant cutting it down or moving the station. Since these parks exist to protect sequoias, the station had to find a new home. It now resides in what was the Big Stump Picnic Area. Until a better site can be built for it, take your picnic basket to Columbine (or see the park map for other picnic areas). If you want to explore another area that has been logged, try Converse Basin, north of Grant Grove in the National Forest.

#### FAMILY NATURE PROGRAM AT BEETLE ROCK ~

Exhibits and activities for folks of all ages await you at Beetle Rock! From July 1

through August 20, check it out between 10 am and 4 pm, or join in a specific activity (see *Nature Programs* on page 8). Across the road from the Giant Forest Museum, the Beetle Rock Education Center houses several educational functions, thanks to our park partners – the Sequoia Fund and the Sequoia Natural History Association!

**ROAD WORK AHEAD!** ~ Major repairs to a stretch of the historic Generals Highway are scheduled to start in mid-July. The roadway involved is in Sequoia Park, between Hospital Rock Picnic Area and the Giant Forest. It includes the Amphitheater Point overlook. Ask at visitor centers for details, including the timing of traffic delays. Delays will be kept as short as possible, especially on weekends and holidays. Thank you for your patience as we work to preserve this old road!